

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TRIPOL 00266 01 OF 02 211550Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AF-10 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00
EB-08 FRB-03 INR-10 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00
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PA-01 DOE-11 SOE-02 HA-05 /129 W
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FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5180
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AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 TRIPOLI 0266

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PGOV, EGEN, LY
SUBJECT: QADHAFI'S GREEN BOOK SOLVES THE PROBLEM OF THE ECONOMY

BEGIN SUMMARY: COLONEL QADHAFI'S GREEN BOOK, PART TWO, "THE SOLUTION OF THE ECONOMIC PROBLEM," HAS NOW APPEARED. THIS SLIM PAMPHLET ADVOCATES IN CONFUSED TERMS CREATION OF A VARIANT SOCIALISM IN WHICH CAPITAL APPARENTLY DOES NOT BELONG TO THE STATE, WITH NO PARTICULARS ON HOW OR WHEN THIS IS TO BE ACHIEVED. MOST STRIKING POINT IS BLOW AT LANDLORDS WHICH DECLARES NO ONE HAS RIGHT TO OWN LAND OR HOUSES FOR RENT. END SUMMARY.

1. THE LONG-AWAITED PART II OF COLONEL QADHAFI'S GREEN BOOK APPEARED A COUPLE OF WEEKS AGO IN ARABIC AND IS NOW AVAILABLE IN ENGLISH. PART II IS TO SOLVE THE ECONOMIC PROBLEM AS PART I SOLVED THE PROBLEM OF DEMOCRACY. JUDGING BY HIS NEW PAMPHLET, THE COLONEL DOES NOT HAVE MUCH FAMILIARITY WITH ECONOMICS BUT HAS A TALENT FOR PRODUCING NEBULOUS AND JUVENILE
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PAGE 02 TRIPOL 00266 01 OF 02 211550Z

CONCEPTS.

2. TO SOLVE THE ECONOMIC PROBLEM, QADHAFI HAS RE-INVENTED SOCIALISM, WITHOUT ANY MENTION OF THE OLD MASTERS OF THE MATERIAL OR OF THE EXPERIMENTS TO DATE. SOCIALISM APPARENTLY HAS NOT YET BEEN ACHIEVED ANYWHERE, FOR WAGE-WORKERS ARE SAID TO BE SLAVES WHETHER

WORKING FOR THE LEFTIST STATE OR FOR THE RICH CAPITALISTS OF RIGHTIST STATES. THE ESSENCE OF THE NEW SOCIALISM WILL BE TO CONVERT THE WORKER INTO A PARTNER OF THE ENTERPRISE, TO ABOLISH THE WAGE SYSTEM, AND TO "EMANCIPATE MAN FROM ITS BONDAGE AND RETURN TO THE NATURAL LAW WHICH DEFINED RELATIONSHIPS BEFORE THE EMERGENCE OF CLASSES, FORMS OF GOVERNMENT AND MAN-MADE LAWS." THIS CONCEPT IS BUT POORLY ELABORATED, BUT APPARENTLY LEADS IN THE MODERN SETTING TO A SYSTEM WHERE LABOR (THE PARTNERS), CAPITAL AND RAW MATERIALS ARE EACH ALLOTTED PRECISELY ONE-THIRD OF THE PRODUCTION OF AN ENTERPRISE. IT IS UNCLEAR WHO WOULD OWN CAPITAL. IN ANOTHER PASSAGE, IT IS INDICATED THAT THE PARTNERS SHOULD TAKE ALL THE PRODUCE OF AN ENTERPRISE. QADHAFI, WHO TENDS TO SEE THE ECONOMY IN TERMS OF FARMS AND FACTORIES PRODUCING TANGIBLE GOODS, TYPICALLY DOES NOT FOCUS ON ORGANIZATION OF THE SERVICES SECTOR.

3. WHILE THE GREEN BOOK'S THIN PHILOSOPHY MAY AMUSE THOSE HAVING NO STAKE IN LIBYA, A NUMBER OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL'S THOUGHTS, WHICH COULD BECOME TOMORROW'S DECREES, ARE ALARMING TO LIBYA'S ENTREPRENEURIAL, MONEYED AND PROFESSIONAL CLASSES. IN A PASSAGE TITLED "NEEDS," THE COLONEL REVEALS THAT "MAN'S FREEDOM IS LACKING IF SOMEBODY ELSE CONTROLS WHAT HE NEEDS" AND "NEED MAY RESULT IN MAN'S ENSLAVEMENT OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 TRIPOL 00266 01 OF 02 211550Z

AN." IN THE NEW SOCIETY EVERY MAN MUST CONTROL HIS OWN NEEDS. SINCE A HOUSE IS A BASIC NEED, EVERYONE SHOULD OWN THE HOUSE HE LIVES IN AND NOBODY SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO OWN A HOUSE TO RENT TO OTHERS. THIS AND THE ASSERTION THAT "LAND IS NOBODY'S PROPERTY" IS DISTURBING TO LANDLORDS WHO HAVE LONG FEARED THE EVENTUAL CONFISCATION OF THEIR PROPERTIES. SIMILARLY, ACCORDING TO THE GREEN BOOK, NO INDIVIDUAL HAS THE RIGHT TO ACCUMULATE WEALTH BEYOND WHAT IS NECESSARY TO SATISFY HIS NEEDS, SINCE TAKING MORE WOULD BE THEFT OF PUBLIC WEALTH. SAVING IS NOT TOTALLY PROHIBITED, BUT IF INDULGED IN, SHOULD COME ONLY FROM DEPRIVING ONE'S SELF OF A PART OF HIS NEEDS. NO FORMULA IS GIVEN FOR DETERMINING THE LEVEL OF ONE'S NEEDS. NOT EVERYONE IS CONDEMNED TO EGALITARIANISM, HOWEVER, FOR THOSE WHO RENDER A "PUBLIC SERVICE" (GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS?) WILL BE PERMITTED "DIFFERENCES IN INDIVIDUAL WEALTH" PROPORTIONATE TO THE SERVICE. ODDLY, THE GREEN BOOK PRESCRIBES THAT EACH INDIVIDUAL IS ENTITLED TO HIS OWN PRIVATE VEHICLE, THUS THREATENING FURTHER THE LOW QUALITY OF LIFE IN OVER-MOTORIZED TRIPOLI.

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PAGE 01 TRIPOL 00266 02 OF 02 211555Z

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 2 OF 2 TRIPOLI 0266

4. QADHAFI HAS NO PRESCRIPTION FOR ACHIEVING THE NEW SOCIALISM IN THE JAMAHIRIYAH OR THE COMMUNIST COUNTRIES. IN THE CAPITALIST WEST, HOWEVER, THE COLONEL SEES THE "THREATENING POWER OF THE TRADE UNIONS" AS BEING CAPABLE OF "OVERTURNING CAPITALIST SOCIETIES OF WAGE-WORKERS INTO SOCIETIES OF PARTNERS." QADHAFI FORESEES THAT UNDER THE GUIDANCE OF THE GREEN BOOK, CAPITALIST WORKERS WILL SOONER OR LATER START THE REVOLUTION TO ACHIEVE SOCIALISM BY "APPROPRIATING THEIR SHARE IN WHAT THEY PRODUCE."

5. WHILE QADHAFI HAS EXPRESSED MANY OF HIS GREEN BOOK THOUGHTS PREVIOUSLY AND HAS ALREADY TAKEN LIBYA A LONG WAY DOWN THE PATH TO SOCIALISM, THE PUBLICATION OF THIS GUIDEBOOK EMPHASIZES HIS DETERMINATION TO CONTINUE AND IS NOT GOOD NEWS FOR THE REMAINING ENTREPRENEURIAL CLASS AND OTHERS WHO HAVE ACCUMULATED A BIT OF CAPITAL. THE APPEARANCE OF THE PAMPHLET IS NO DOUBT RESPONSIBLE IN LARGE PART FOR RECENT UNREST CONCERNING THE ECONOMY

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PAGE 02 TRIPOL 00266 02 OF 02 211555Z

REFLECTED IN RUMORS THAT THE CURRENCY WILL BE RECALLED,
AND THAT BANKS WILL SOON CEASE MAKING LOANS TO THE
PRIVATE SECTOR, REPORTS OF ACCELERATED WITHDRAWALS FROM
BANKS AND OF A DROP IN THE FREE-MARKET VALUE OF THE
DINAR, AND GROWING FEARS OF IMPENDING CONFISCATION OF
RENTAL PROPERTY.

6. THE ENGLISH VERSION OF THE GREEN BOOK IS NOT YET
COMMERCIALY AVAILABLE IN TRIPOLI. IF DEPARTMENT
DESIRES COPIES, IT MAY WISH TO ASK EMBASSY LONDON TO
ACQUIRE. BOOK WAS PUBLISHED BY MARTIN BRIAN & O'KEEFE
LTD., 37 MUSEUM STREET, LONDON WC 2, CARRIES IDENTI-
FICATION NUMBER ISBN 0 85616 041 5, AND RETAILS AT
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